

More on Richard Nixon's state of mind, and apparently we haven't heard the last of those strange stories concerning Nixon's state of mind during his final weeks in office.

In the upcoming issue of Rolling Stone, Senator Alan Cranston tells of a White House meeting between Nixon and loyal House Republicans during the summer of 1974. ^{xxx} At the meeting Nixon reportedly was trying to impress his audience with his power. At one point Nixon is quoted as saying, "I could pick up this telephone right now, and in 25 minutes 70 million people would be dead." Rolling Stone comments that such frightening language may be the reason then-Secretary of Defense Schlesinger ordered all military commands to clear any instructions from Nixon through Schlesinger personally. **

The magazine also reports that in his last days Richard Nixon apparently had taken to saying goodnight to all the portraits of former Presidents hanging in the second floor of the White House. The anecdote reportedly will appear in Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's upcoming book, "The Final Days." Julie Eisenhower, by the way, has denied the story. She says there's nothing but landscapes on the second floor of the White House.*

[Complete.]

xxx Other refs, SFC 7 Feb 76.

*During interview on Face the Nation, 18 Jan 76 (taped).

**See footnotes, KPFA Evening News 9 Feb 76.

See transcript, excerpt of Colson intv, 26 Feb 76.

Note for Chronology:

See entry 24 Aug 74 - Nixon
(possibility of rash [military]
action)